

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 28 has been amended to replace “the reaction of Bossio et al.” with “the reaction comprising coupling an α -ketoaldehyde with a carboxylic acid and an isonitrile to obtain an oxazole”. Support for the amendment is found at specification page 12, lines 16-20.

Claim 45 has been amended to replace “a single immunoassay” with “one immunoassay”. Support for the amendment is found in original Claim 27 and at specification page 8, lines 3-6.

Claim 27, 28, 31, 37, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, and 52 have additionally been amended to place the claims in a better format for examination on the merits.

Support for new Claim 54 is found in original Claims 27 and 37.

Claims 30, 32, 36, 39, 41, 46-47, and 53 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejection of Claims 28 and 45 under U.S.C 112, second paragraph is believed to be obviated by the present amendment.

The rejection of Claims 27-29, 31, 33-35, 37, 38, 40, 42-45, 48, 49 and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is traversed.

Applicants disclose a method comprising obtaining a compound Z in a reaction medium and subsequently determining the concentration of the obtained compound Z by using at least one immunoassay comprising at least the antibody AC₁ as in amended Claim 27.

In fact, Applicants further disclose that the at least one immunassay comprising the antibody AC₁ establishes immunobinding between the antibody AC₁ and the residue E₁ of the compound Z and forms a covalent bonding of the antibody AC₁ and the residue of E₂ of the compound Z, and Applicants also disclose details determining the concentration of compound Z from a conjugate attached to a solid phase by the antibody AC₁ in the reaction medium as in amended Claim 37.

Additionally, Applicants show inventive examples of determining the concentration of the obtained compound Z in the reaction medium by at least one immunoassay comprising at least the antibody AC₁ (See, specification page 38, line 11 to continuing page 40, line 3) where there is no need to remove the unreacted first compound E₁-X₁-G₁ from the reaction medium since the compound is not recognized by the antibody AC₁ and does not bind the conjugate.

Therefore, amended Claim 27 recites a step of determining that is supported by the specification. The disclosure including the examples sufficiently describes “determining the concentration of the obtained compound Z in the reaction medium at a predetermined reaction time t, by at least one immunoassay comprising at least the antibody AC₁” such that

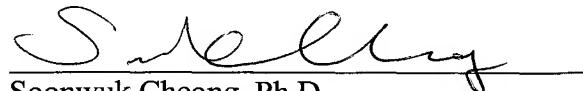
one of ordinary skill in the art thereby could carry out screening of operating conditions of a coupling reaction of at least two functional groups as in amended Claim 27.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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